

AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE TOPICS.

REPUBLICAN SENATORS DECIDE TO PROCEED WITH BUSINESS—JUDGE ROBERTSON'S NOMINATION—A DULL DAY IN THE SENATE—EX-SENATOR DORSEY'S REQUEST DENIED.

The Republican Senators met in caucus yesterday and received the report of the Committee of Safety. After full discussion, it is understood, it was decided to hold executive sessions of the Senate to consider treaties and uncontested nominations. The question of the confirmation or rejection of Judge Robertson's nomination causes great discussion and speculation. The Senate listened yesterday to remarks upon the debt of the Virginias. Ex-Senator Dorsey made a personal call upon Postmaster-General James. It is believed he learned that no special investigation will be ordered for his benefit.

THE REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.

UNCONTESTED NOMINATIONS TO BE VOTED UPON—FRONTIERS—MR. CONKLING'S REPORTED TACTICS—WHY THEY MAY FAIL OF SUCCESS—DISCONTENT WITH HIS COURSE AND THAT OF MR. GORHAM.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 3.—The Republican Senators were in caucus about four hours to-day. The Committee of Safety submitted the result of their deliberations, and a very full discussion ensued. Senators are very reticent regarding the details of their proceedings, but it is understood that without a formal vote being taken, an understanding was reached to proceed to the consideration of executive business to-morrow.

It is also learned from a source which appears to be perfectly trustworthy that the order of business will be: First, the reference to appropriate committees of nominations now upon the Vice-President's table, over which there will probably be no contest; second, the consideration of the treaties pending ratification; and, third, action upon committees.

It is also understood that the action of the caucus in determining to proceed with the consideration of executive business is in no sense to be interpreted as a signal that the Republicans have decided either to abandon or postpone the struggle to obtain control of the organization of the Senate; but that that struggle is to be continued as strenuously as ever.

It is understood that Senator Blair, of New Hampshire, made a long speech in opposition to the pending resolution to elect officers should be disposed of, but his views did not meet with much approval. "Uncontested nominations" to which both Senators (if Republicans) from a State to which the appointment belongs offer no objection. In other words, the opposition of one Republican Senator from any State will prevent action upon it. This rule applies also to nominations for Judges of United States Courts and officers of Executive Departments in Washington. "Contested nominations" are to remain unacted upon until another caucus of Republican Senators shall have been held. The rule appears to have been framed to cover the case of Judge Robertson almost exclusively, although it may possibly be applied to other nominations.

There is an impression among friends of the Administration that Mr. Conkling will now become very active and do all he can to expedite the confirmation of nominations over which there is no contest; and that as soon as they are disposed of he will be in favor of an adjournment and the postponement of the contest for the Senate officers until next winter, in order to avoid a contest over the nomination of Judge Robertson. If Mr. Conkling attempts to carry out this programme he may encounter an unexpected obstacle. His friends have indicated very confidently that no man in the Senate would dare to move to discharge the Committee on Commerce from the consideration of Judge Robertson's case. The probability is, however, not only that a Senator can be found who will "dare" to make such a motion, but also that such a motion will prevail. A Republican Senator said to-day that at least a dozen Republican Senators would vote for such a motion, and he believed that nearly all the Democratic Senators would do the same. He thought, however, that such a motion would receive less votes than a direct motion to confirm the nomination of Judge Robertson.

Mr. Conkling's friends claim twelve to fifteen Democratic votes against confirmation; a Democrat, who has taken pains to inform himself regarding the views of Democratic Senators on that question, said to a TRIBUNE correspondent to-day that he did not believe that more than six or seven Democrats would vote against Judge Robertson. Renowned Senators McPherson, Groome, Cockrell, Garland, Farley and Slater as those who would probably do so. He said, however, that he considered Senators Hill, of Georgia, Jones, of Florida, Harris, Pendleton, Voorhees, Maxey, Walker and Fair, doubtful. Another Democrat, who is usually well informed regarding the feeling among Democratic Senators, said this evening that they are ready to vote almost solidly for a motion to discharge the Committee on Commerce from the consideration of the Robertson case, should that committee evince a disposition unduly to delay a report upon it.

It is understood that Mr. Conkling has made considerable impression upon Republican Senators by causing it to be believed that Judge Robertson is personally inimical to him, and has done certain things to render impossible any future friendly relations between them. It is believed, however, that this impression has been considerably weakened by Mr. Conkling's course during the last few days, which it is said has been such as to produce considerable resentment among Republican Senators, who believe that he has taken advantage of the present situation for his own ends and against the Administration.

Another cause of discontent has been the course pursued by Mr. Gorham, the Republican nominee for Secretary of the Senate and Editor of *The National Republican*. So discontented have Republican Senators become with Mr. Gorham, that it is more than doubtful if he could now receive the nomination which was tendered him by the Republican caucus six weeks ago. One Republican Senator bluntly said in the caucus to-day that he is very much opposed to the election of Mr. Gorham, and it is known that at least a dozen other Senators entertain the same sentiments, although they refrained from expressing themselves in the caucus.

Several Republican Senators freely declared to-day in private conversation that they would never again consent to abide by the decision of a caucus that should nominate Mr. Gorham to be an officer of the Senate. This perhaps is not very astonishing, considering the course toward the Administration pursued by *The National Republican*, of which Mr. Gorham is the responsible Editor. It would appear, therefore, to be a foregone conclusion that if for any reason the struggle for the election of officers should be postponed until the regular session Mr. Gorham would not be nominated, or if nominated would not be elected Secretary of the Senate. This brings up the question of the probability of such a postponement; indications that this is probable are not wanting, and indeed they point strongly to such a result.

It is even considered possible that General Mahone, if he had been convinced that the result on to elect officers cannot be passed at this session because of the persistence of the Democrats in their preliminary course, with himself, move that it be postponed until next December. Those who think it possible that General Mahone will do this express opinion that such an act by him will greatly excite the people of the people of Virginia in the coming political campaign.

THE DEBT OF WEST VIRGINIA.

WHAT SENATOR DAVIS SAID, AND WHAT HE OMITTED TO SAY ABOUT IT.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Senator Davis, of West Virginia, whose famous investigation of the accounts of the Treasury Department showed what kind of financial genius he possesses, read to the Senate to-day a long and remarkably full discourse to prove that the people of West Virginia are anxious to pay their share of the State debt of old Virginia as soon as the proper amount can be ascertained. Mr. Davis began his speech with a complaint against General Mahone, who, he asserted, "brought the subject of debt and repudiation in the South before this body." The fact is that General Mahone's colleague, the Honorable Senator Johnston, opened the discussion of that subject and got more than he and his party associates bargained for or desired.

Senator Davis, of course, declared that the Democratic party in West Virginia has always been eager to pay the debts inherited by that State from Virginia. The facts in the case, which Senator Davis sought to explain away by a multitude of words, are very easy to understand. The State Constitution of West Virginia, framed in 1861-'62 by a Republican Constitutional Convention, contained the following section:

"An equitable proportion of the public debt of the Commonwealth of Virginia prior to the 1st day of January, 1861, shall be assumed by the State; and the Legislature shall ascertain the same as soon as may be practicable, and provide for the liquidation thereof by a sinking fund sufficient to pay the accruing interest and redeem the principal within thirty-four years."

In 1872 a new State Constitution was framed by a Democratic Constitutional Convention, which took good care to omit the above provision, and to put nothing in its place. Senator Davis admitted that nothing had been done since the Democrats had obtained control of the State ten years ago, to either to ascertain the amount of the interest upon it, or to make any money to pay the debt with its accumulations of interest shall amount to a sufficient sum, the Democratic party in Virginia will "recognize" it by "scaling it down," the Democratic North Carolina, Georgia, and other Southern States, did with the debts of those States.

Senator Camden, of West Virginia, made a few remarks to supplement what his colleague had said, and then the discussion of the subject was dropped. It appeared to interest nobody except the West Virginia Senators, were terminated by an adjournment to allow the Republican caucus an opportunity to resume its deliberations.

MR. DORSEY AND THE STAR ROUTES.

THE REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL INVESTIGATION DENIED.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Ex-Senator Dorsey, accompanied by Colonel Robert Ingersoll as counsel, called upon Postmaster-General James this afternoon to urge that a special investigation be made of the ex-Senator's connection with Star Route contracts. Attorney-General MacVeagh was present in consultation with the Postmaster-General. The interview was an extended one and took place with closed doors. The Postmaster-General did not accede to the request of Mr. Dorsey, and no special investigation will be ordered, it is understood, publish another card on the subject.

AGAIN ENJOYING PROTECTION.

THE TREASURY ORDER AFFECTING MANUFACTURERS OF KNIT GOODS REVOKED.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—In view of the action of the United States Supreme Court yesterday in granting leave to file a petition for a rehearing in the recently decided case of Victor et al against C. A. Arthur, Collector, the Secretary of the Treasury to-day directed that Order No. 32 of the Department be revoked. This order instructed the Collectors of Customs to assess all knit goods thirty-five per centum ad valorem. The revocation of the order restores the rates of duty which were enforced prior to March 29, the date upon which the order was issued, namely, fifty cents per pound specific, and thirty-five per cent ad valorem. The enforcement of this order was strongly protested against by the National Knit Goods Association, the members of which were granted a hearing by Secretary Windom on Saturday last. The chairman of the Executive Committee, George C. Bosson, and F. T. Spooner, remained in the city after the other members took their departure for the purpose of obtaining the leave to file a petition granted by the Supreme Court.

This morning they were reinforced by a number of members of the association, among whom were Charles Spencer, John L. Thayer, B. Allen and Conyers Britton. The delegation, after an interview with the Secretary of the Treasury, called upon the President and Secretary Blaine, whom they assured that the decision of the Treasury Department would relieve not only the manufacturers of knit goods, who are necessarily interested in the question, but also some 100,000 persons who are in their employ and would have been more or less affected by the enforcement of the order. The delegation and their counsel, S. W. Kellogg, of Connecticut, and John L. Hayes, of Boston, during the course of their interviews with Cabinet officers and others, expressed themselves as exceedingly grateful for the courtesy and attention which had been universally granted them by Government officials and United States Senators.

LAWLESSNESS IN VIRGINIA.

NEGROES WHIPPED, ROBBED AND DRIVEN FROM THEIR HOMES—OFFICERS OF JUSTICE INDIFERENT.

WASHINGTON, May 3.—Internal Revenue Agent Tracie, who has been conducting the raids upon the illicit distillers in Franklin County, Va., has forwarded to Commissioner Ransom a detailed account of a recent attempt to capture the notorious Dave Gillespie, which failed, the offender escaping from him. The report says:

"Since my raid in Running Bog on the 20th, Gillespie and his crowd of supporters (violators of the revenue laws) have committed shameful outrages upon innocent colored people in that neighborhood, and have charged themselves with the protection of the same. They have been exceedingly disrespectful to the Revenue officers. They went in disguise, with their faces blackened, and whipped men and women, robbed one or two of money, destroyed their property, drove them from their homes, and some of them have been killed. I have been informed that they have taken to the road to West Virginia, and ordered them to leave, on penalty of death if they returned. These outrages have not disturbed in the slightest degree the officials of Franklin County. This revival of Ku-Kluxism by illicit distillers and their friends in the mountains of Franklin has terrorized good citizens to such an extent that they are afraid even to speak of the outrages, now so common. There is no such thing in Franklin County, on the part of responsible citizens, as sympathy for the enforcement of the laws regarding making or selling spirits, either State or National."

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It is understood that in the caucus to-day a Senator remarked that he desired to see all nominations postponed until the regular session. This remark was misunderstood. He was in favor of considering all nominations at this session, but informing some to him from various sources, which he would not repeat, the effect that it would be for the interest of the party should action

THE NEWS FROM ABROAD.

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"OKLAHOMA" PAYNE'S TRIAL.

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SMALLPOX AT ADAMS, MASS.

NORTH ADAMS, Mass., May 3.—The Adams small-pox scare is revived. The case of a young man, named John, who is now in the hospital, is the subject of much speculation. It is believed that the disease was introduced by a visitor from the city.

THE CONY TRAIL.

POTTSVILLE, Penn., May 3.—The Cony trail was had before Judge Barnard this morning on a motion to continue the trial until the 10th inst. Judge Barnard reserved his decision.

A STRICT SCHOOL OFFICER REELECTED.

WILKESBARRE, Penn., May 3.—James W. Knicker, a strict school officer, was re-elected to his office. This gentleman's rigid course of examination, during his term of office, has been the subject of much discussion. He is a strict adherent of the State laws, and is a very efficient officer.

IMPORTANCE OF ORDER AT SUMMER RESORTS.

FREDERICK, N. J., May 3.—At the opening of the month of June, the summer season is about to begin. The importance of order at the resorts is being emphasized. The authorities are urging the public to maintain order and respect the laws of the State.

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